

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ON THE WAIVER RENEWAL

Question: Does a provider have to request a revision to move to the new rates?

Answer: No, it is the providers' option whether to request to move to the new rates. Options include:

- 1) Continue using current approved plan and rates and wait until the next CSR to calculate services using new rates
- 2) Request a revision to be effective 3/1/2010 including identification of all units and dollars used through 2/28/2010 and identification of all units and dollars for 3/1/2010 until the end of the individual's plan of care year
- 3) Continue using current pa's and start billing at the new rates for case management, consultation, crisis intervention, and supported employment. Before the current prior authorization's dollars are expended and the prior authorization expires, send in a revision (with all supporting documentation) for the additional money. It is imperative that if this option is chosen the request for the revision must be timely to allow for processing before the prior authorization expiration.

Question: For any new pa requests, should transportation and supported living services be added together?

Answer: Yes, on any new pa's 3/1/10 forward, please add transportation and community experience to supportive living. This will keep you from having to submit a revision later to add the services together.

Question: On doing the revisions for the increase for the supportive living components, will the existing pa be stopped and a new pa issued for March 1 through the end of the plan year?

Answer: Providers will not be able to bill for community experience and transportation for services delivered after March 1, 2010. Providers can determine if they want to revise current supportive living pa or request a new pa to be issued.

Question: Where are revisions to be sent?

Answer: Revisions are to be sent to the Waiver Program Manager for the area the same as for any CSR's.

Question: How are revisions to be completed?

Answer: If you are submitting a revision to change to standard fixed rates for case management, consultation, supported employment or crisis intervention, submit the budget sheet with changes including explanation of units used through 2/28/10 x current rate, remaining units 3/1/10 through end of plan times new rate, and revised total amount for each service. If you want to modify the existing pa, submit a copy of the current pa showing the revised total amount. If you want to request a new pa to be issued for services 3/1/10 forward, submit a copy of the current pa showing the revised total amount through 2/28/10 and ask that a new pa be issued for March 1, 2010 forward using units of service. If there is no change in the approved dollar amounts for supportive living, community experience and the only change in transportation is to move to 42 cents a mile submit the supportive living worksheet and budget sheet with changes needed including explanation of units used through 2/28/10 times the rate, remaining units 3/1/10 through end of plan times the rate. If you want to

modify the existing pa, submit a copy of the current supportive living pa and write in the revised dollar amount.

Question: Would a new plan of care meeting be required for a revision to increase to the new rates or to combine community experience and transportation with supportive living?

Answer: If all you are doing is keeping same approved units and increasing to the new rate or combining community experience and transportation with supportive living, you will not need to have a plan meeting unless it should affect persons other service level. If the increase should affect the persons service levels, such as increase in miles or change from extensive to pervasive, you would need a plan meeting.

Question: Are batteries and belts for lifts and electric wheelchairs considered maintenance activities or will we still be able to purchase these?

Answer: Repairs such as broken belts would be permissible although there could be a question of neglect if general maintenance was not being conducted. In the current environment, anticipated purchase of electric wheelchairs should examine the possibility of rechargeable batteries.

Question: Will we still be able to pay for air-conditioning and heating in a vehicle if it is a health and safety issue for the individual?

Answer: Yes, if the physician certifies that it is a matter of critical illness where extreme temperatures are life threatening. Otherwise, it is maintenance or in the absence of either heat or air, then it is the responsibility of the individual, parent or legal guardian.

Question: Are there any changes in the old waiver conversion (\$900/month plans)? How do we incorporate the raise in the supportive living amount?

Answer: In the Waiver renewal there is nothing to allow for \$400 or \$900 plans. You will need to use the pro-rated staff form and arrive at actual costs for group homes/apartments for new plans. Any increases in supportive living amount other than the change in transportation rate would require a plan meeting and regular revision with justification.

Question: Are Camp fees (such as Camp Barnabas and Camp Aldersgate) allowable expenses under the Waiver Renewal?

Answer: Supplemental support is only available in response to crisis, emergency or life threatening situations and must be based on demonstrated need in the person's plan as emergencies arise. Activity fees are still covered but must only be as used for behavior reinforcement (such as weight control or health related conditions) or sensory stimulation. Fees may be paid only for such time as to abate the life threatening condition. The waiver does not cover camp fees for general purposes.

Question: If the Camp fee was approved on the original plan can it still be reimbursed by Waiver?

Answer: No, any service after March 1, 2010 must meet criteria of the current waiver to be reimbursed. If we have plans that are approved for services after March 1, 2010 for camp fees for general purposes,

we will have to ask for additional information to assure it meets the new criteria and if it does not the service will have to be denied.

Question: Is a person who has power of attorney over medical affairs for individual age 18 or older able to be hired as a respite caregiver if they meet all the other qualifications?

Answer: No, for person over age 18 the legal representative (guardian/power of attorney) cannot be paid. If the power of attorney gives decision making authority related to waiver services (medical care), the power of attorney would be acting as legal representative and could not be paid.

Question: Is there a cap on the number of miles allowed for transportation?

Answer: There is not a cap other than the supportive living cap. The agreement with DMS was the transportation would be increased to 42 cents a mile. There is not a maximum number of miles in the waiver renewal. Transportation will be included in supported living.

Question: Can a person with power of attorney overrule the choices made by the individual?

Answer: Unlike a guardianship, a power of attorney does not override the individual's express wishes, but operates with concurring authority. The person who granted the power of attorney can also revoke it. It must be assumed that if the person is cognizant to sign away their rights then they are cognizant to regain them.